

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States**



VANTAGE

Spring 2007

BLM-Eastern States Wants Children to *Take It Outside! Connect With Your Public Lands*

By Karen Roberts, Public Affairs Specialist, Eastern States, External Affairs



Derrick A. Crandall

(At right) BLM-ES Environmental Education Specialist Theresa Jefferson instructs youngsters about setting up a tent at the Wonderful Outdoor World (WOW) campout held in Bushnell Park in Hartford, Connecticut, June 21-22, 2007.

It seems technology finally offers everything children need, except a reason to get outside and experience nature. So who will be the next generation of environmental stewards? The BLM understands just how critical the need is to reconnect children with nature. That is why we have undertaken a mission to encourage the Nation's youth and families to reconnect with nature through the public lands.

"The 'Take It Outside! Connect With Your Public Lands' program brings together resources from throughout the BLM to make it easy for families, children, and schools to experience natural learning and exercise while having fun," said Mike Nedd, State Director, BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES). "The program features events from across the BLM program areas and allows children to experience the fun benefits of nature by just having the chance to act like

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Another Record Set During BLM-ES Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale

*By Karen Roberts, Public Affairs Specialist,
BLM-Eastern States, External Affairs*

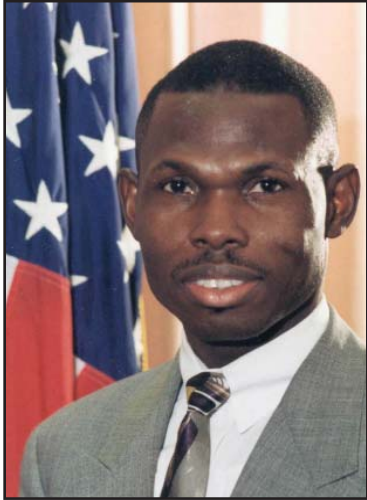
On March 15, 2007, BLM-ES brought in almost \$12 million, the largest dollar amount received since 1989, during a Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale held at its Springfield, Virginia, office. Two hundred thirty-six parcels of Federal subsurface were offered for sale within the Talladega National Forest in Alabama; the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests in Arkansas; the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana; the Huron-Manistee National Forest in Michigan; the Bienville, DeSoto and Homochitto National Forests in Mississippi; and 80 acres underlying privately owned surface in Mississippi. Approximately \$9 million will go to the U.S. Treasury and \$3 million will be shared with the affected States.

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State Director's Message



As I depart BLM-ES to assume the position of Assistant Director, Minerals, Realty and Resource Protection, at our Headquarter's Office in Washington, D.C., I would like to take this opportunity to especially thank you—the outstanding BLM employees, volunteers, and partners—for your support, commitment and dedication to public services. It was truly an honor, privilege, and a joy, to work with you.

Over the past 5 years, you have been instrumental in helping to transform BLM-ES. Your “can-do” spirit and tireless efforts, in developing and supporting the BLM-ES vision, its Futuring Plan and the Strategic Action Plan, are exemplary. Today, BLM-ES is a more focused organization, one that is well positioned to meet not only the current challenges, but to also meet the future challenges in sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands and resources for present and future generations.

Time and time again, I saw many of you rise to the occasion—going the extra mile to meet and/or exceed the American public's needs and expectations. As a result, we were able to accomplish a number of major goals, which include:

- Supporting the President's Energy Plan by working with industry, surface management agencies, and other stakeholders. This resulted in improved relationships and increased energy production in an environmentally sound manner, especially in the southeastern United States, where there has been a 200 percent increase in Applications for Permits to Drill (APDs) and record-breaking Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sales, to the tune of about \$12 million for a recent sale;
- Establishing the Lower Potomac Field Station in 2002 to manage acquired lands at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in northern Virginia and additional lands in partnership with the State of Maryland in southern Maryland. The scenic, natural setting of some of the most ecologically and culturally significant landscapes offers people in the Nation's Capital and surrounding vicinity an opportunity to explore, on foot or horseback, the public lands and experience BLM in the East;
- Completing the automation for nearly 1.25 million post-1908 historical land patents, including all records for the 13 Eastern Public Land States. We now have well over 4.2 million records electronically available to the public and recently added cadastral survey plats and related records;
- Opening, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the State of Mississippi Forestry Commission, the Southeast Regional Fire Training Center in Pearl, Mississippi. The state-of-the-art facility provides Federal, State and local fire departments firefighters with wildland training and support. It has also served as a deployment center in support of natural disasters; and
- Establishing a Lands Identification Project to complete the identification of unpatented Public Domain Lands within BLM-ES. The team has completed its first State and is well on its way to identifying the remaining unpatented lands.

BLM-ES' primary program areas include:

- * **Energy and Mineral Resources;**
- * **Wildland Fire;**
- * **Wild Horse and Burro Adoption and Compliance;**
- * **Natural Resources;**
- * **Lands and Realty;**
- * **Cadastral Survey; and**
- * **General Land Office Records Automation.**

As Guardians of the Past—Stewards for the Future, I know that BLM-ES employees and volunteers, working with our partners, will continue to enhance the quality of life for the people they serve. I have really enjoyed working with all of you and wish you the best in the future!

Michael D. Nedd
State Director, BLM-Eastern States



Joint Spring 2007 ELRC/WSLCA Conference

Story and photo by Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, BLM-Eastern States, External Affairs



Luncheon speaker, DOI Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, C. Stephen Allred, talks to conferees during the ELRC/WSLCA conference.

Following the State roll call, BLM leadership had the unique opportunity to open the forum during this year's Eastern Lands and Resources Council (ELRC) and Western States Land Commissioners Association (WSLCA) Joint Spring Conference, held March 26-28, in Washington, D.C.

This year's theme, "New Challenges for State and Federal Public Land Managers," drew together a large group of Federal and State lands and resources managers from across the country, as well as land conservancy

officers, lawyers, consultants, researchers, and representatives from private organizations. They heard discussions on a variety of issues related to real estate development and conservation projects, forests and wetlands, and oil and gas.

DOI Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management C. Stephen Allred talked about important issues of the Department. BLM Deputy Director Henri Bisson discussed some of BLM's initiatives related to lands and resources management.

Other guest speakers from the BLM, DOI, and U.S. Forest Service included BLM's Deputy Assistant Director Robert Anderson, BLM Wyoming State Director Bob Bennett, BLM-ES Associate State Director Barron Bail, BLM's Public Affairs Chief Celia Boddington, Acting Division Chief, Lands, Realty & Cadastral Survey Jeff Holdren, and Senior Realty Specialist David Beaver, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Director H. Dale Hall, and U.S. Forest Service Deputy Chief Joel Holtrop.

The BLM-ES and the ELRC began their association in 1983 and became official partners in 2002. Together both groups work toward the development and promotion of sound Federal and State public land management policies in the East.

Cana Island Lighthouse Transferred to Door County, Wisconsin

By Carol Grundman, Realty Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Milwaukee Field Office



(From left to right) BLM-ES Acting Milwaukee Field Manager Tim O'Brien and External Affairs Chief Terry Lewis, and U.S. Coast Guard Captain Robert Desh, Ninth Coast Guard District presented a framed patent to Door County Parks Director George Pinney, Administrator Michael Serpe, and Board Chairman Charlie Most, Jr. during the Cana Island Lighthouse property transfer ceremony.

On May 18, 2007, under blue skies and a gentle Lake Michigan breeze, about 75 Door County residents, leaders, and lighthouse enthusiasts from around the State, joined the BLM and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) in celebrating the transfer of the Cana Island Lighthouse property to Door County, Wisconsin. The Door County Maritime Museum's Lighthouse Preservation Society will maintain the lighthouse.

Guest speakers from the county, USCG, the offices of Senator Herb Kohl and Senator Russ Feingold, and BLM, reflected on the history and importance of Cana Island Lighthouse to Door County and Great Lakes' navigation. For over a century, the lighthouse at Cana Island has played a significant role in maritime travel and local culture—one of Wisconsin's most treasured landmarks.

This ceremony marks the beginning of a new era of ownership for the lighthouse while recognizing the efforts of all who worked to preserve its heritage for present and future generations.



BLM-ES Volunteer Shares Positive Experiences with WH&Bs

By Karen Malloy, Lead Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Division of Natural Resources

Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) Volunteer, Fred Woehl, has been spreading the word about WH&B adoptions since he adopted and trained his first wild horse 3 years ago. He and his wife, Carolyn, now have seven adopted horses and burros at their home in Harrison, Arkansas. Fred has provided free training demonstrations and mini-clinics, and has represented the WH&B Adoption program on two occasions at the Horse Festival at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Fred was raised around horses and mules. He explained, "When I was young, my mother's entire family used horses on their farms to plow, and today they still use wagons for transportation. I can still remember riding in the back of a wagon to town."

As he got older, Fred became interested in gentle breaking methods. "I felt there had to be a better and safer way than trying to 'cowboy' them. When I adopted my first mustang, Blue, in Harrison, Arkansas, in March 2004, he was a yearling stallion from Wyoming—dirty, unkempt and wild. He was a diamond in the rough. I didn't want to literally break him, so the only alternative was to use and adapt the natural horsemanship methods I had already practiced for 10 years. My approach and philosophy worked very well with Blue and my other BLM horses," said Fred.

He continued, "We have made hundreds of new friends as we traveled the country doing clinics, demonstrations, and riding the beautiful trails. On March 31, I represented the WH&B Adoption program at the 2007 University of Arkansas Horse Festival in



Photo by Carolyn Woehl

BLM-ES volunteer, Fred Woehl, leads his adopted horse, Blue, over a 20-inch wide bridge to the platform, (simulating ledges or bluffs) during a trust-building exercise during the 2007 University of Arkansas Horse Festival in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Fayetteville, Arkansas, where over 3,000 people were in attendance. As usual, Blue was a hit with the children, and we gave out our supply of WH&B posters, tattoos, and pencils. Blue's great disposition and charisma allows us to reach interested potential adopters that others can't. The 'how to' questions are many, and this gives us the opportunity to share the positive aspects of wild horses to the public. Additionally, Blue has posed for a multitude of photographs with children and several adults."

Fred's recent appearances at WH&B events has sparked interest in the adoption in Sedalia, Missouri, on June 23-24. Through his efforts, he has provided audiences with a better understanding of wild horse training and shows how to gentle horses to become willing partners.

Take It Outside...continued from page 1

a child," he said. The components of "Take It Outside! Connect With Your Public Lands" are explained on the Web site www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/children_and_nature.3.html.

During summer 2007, the BLM-ES will work with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and corporate and nonprofit partners to provide outdoor activities for youth. Upcoming events include:

Date	Event and Place
June–August	America's Outdoors Youth Program, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
July 15	Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Event, Gainesville, Georgia
29	Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Event, Archdale, North Carolina
12	Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum, Science Field Day, Jackson, Mississippi
21	Nature Hike, Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, Lorton, Virginia
August 11	Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Event, Storrs, Connecticut
18	Nature Hike, Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, Lorton, Virginia
25	Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Event, Decatur, Alabama



BLM-ES Works with Partners to Replace an Invasive Weed with Native Pollinator Host Plant

By Jill Hapner, Dissertator-University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP),
BLM-Eastern States, Milwaukee Field Office

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is a Eurasian herb that is aggressively invading forests throughout portions of the United States and southern Canada. Botanical surveys conducted during 2006 on the Milwaukee River Public Domain Islands in Wisconsin revealed an extensive presence of garlic mustard, and methods to control the populations of this invasive exotic are currently under development by the BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office (MFO).

In southeastern Wisconsin, garlic mustard displaces native plant species such as cut-leaved toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata* [*Dentaria laciniata*]) and broad-leaved toothwort (*Cardamine* [*Dentaria*] *diphylla*). These plants are the primary native plant hosts of the native West Virginia White butterfly (*Pieris virginiensis*), which is listed as a "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" in Wisconsin's State Wildlife Action Plan. When females are confused and lay their eggs on the toxic garlic mustard, larvae are unable to complete development, adding to the decline of the species. The native toothworts are also sources of nectar for adult West Virginia White butterflies.



Photo by Paul Drobot

Cut-leaved toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*) is a woodland herb found in the temperate deciduous forests of North America. The loss of toothwort populations is one cause of decline of the West Virginia White butterfly (*Pieris virginiensis*).



Photo by Will Cook

The rare West Virginia White butterfly depends primarily on toothwort as a host plant for larvae development and as a source of nectar for adult butterflies.

The MFO staff is establishing germination and propagation trials for the use of cut-leaved toothwort as a native replacement for garlic mustard on the Milwaukee River Public Domain Islands. Plans are underway for official transfer of the material from the Plant Conservation Alliance Seeds of Success Program, and with the help of the U.S. Forest Service, Wisconsin Bureau of Endangered Resources, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), cut-leaved toothwort seeds will be locally collected for use in the germination/propagation trials. Selected toothwort plants will be maintained as seed sources by the UWM Field Station, while other plants will be transplanted to the islands following garlic mustard removal. The toothwort field plantings will be closely monitored by MFO staff as part of a long-term adaptive management plan currently under development for the islands.

This project will permit the MFO to perform native seed germination trials, develop native plant materials, replace invasive species on Public Domain Land, and restore native host plants for a rare pollinator species. Garlic mustard invasion is a widespread concern; investigations such as this will improve the scientific basis of methods to manage the species. By combining experimental research, long-term monitoring, evaluation, and assessment we can contribute to the development of a framework for improving management of invasive plants using native replacement strategies.



Awesome Drilling Rig Being Used in Louisiana

Story and photo by Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office



New drilling rig, M05, at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana.

Have you ever watched an episode of **Star Trek**? Were you fascinated with the seemingly state-of-the-art bridge on the Starship Enterprise? Well, there is a company at Barksdale Air Force Base (AFB) that has recently acquired a new oil and gas drilling rig from China called the M05. This rig is totally automated and features the latest in drilling

technology. When you are seated in the operator's chair, you feel like you are a member of the **Star Trek** crew. The rig is designed to be faster and more cost efficient than a regular man-powered rig. Indeed, the rig has shown that it can drill a well in less than half the time of a normal rig. This provides tremendous cost savings to the operators—a savings that will be passed down to the consumer.

On March 29, 2007, BLM-ES had the opportunity to showcase the rig in a special real-time broadcast with the DOI's Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Office in Washington, D.C. This broadcast also featured BLM-ES' remote uses of the new digital gateway technology for real time visual communication of BLM activities. Approximately 12 people from the Assistant Secretary's Office were present to "virtually visit" the field and get an idea of oil and gas operations at Barksdale AFB.

Water Projects Take Off at Meadowood

By Jinx Fox, Natural Resources Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Lower Potomac Field Station

This spring, the focus turned to water and water resources at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The first water resources project to get underway was an "Introduction to Stream Monitoring Workshop" for volunteers at Meadowood on March 18. BLM worked with Ph.D. candidate, Joanna Cornell, to host the class. She has developed the Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Training (NEST) Program within Fairfax County. The NEST Program trains volunteers to conduct a variety of monitoring and environmental projects including water-quality sampling, aquatic organism identification, and other environmental monitoring and stewardship activities. The participants in the workshop were Meadowood horse boarders, members of the Mason Neck Horse Coalition, local residents, and interested adults and children.

During the March workshop, participants learned a variety of techniques for sampling and identifying benthic organisms. Benthic organisms are insects and other organisms which live on the bottom of streams. The types and quantities of benthic organisms provide a picture of the relative health of a stream. The class discovered a healthy and diverse population of benthic organisms at the Thompson Creek sample site, including caddisflies, stoneflies, worms, and sowbugs. Thompson Creek, which drains through Meadowood, is one of the least impacted streams in heavily developed Fairfax County.



Photo by Bill Davenport

(From left) Former BLM-ES Wildlife Management Biologist Geoffrey Walsh and Lower Potomac Field Station Natural Resources Specialist Jinx Fox release grass eating carp in the Enchanted Pond at the Meadowood SRMA.

In April, Meadowood staff released triploid, grass-eating carp in the Enchanted and Hidden Ponds. The carp, which do not reproduce, eat submerged aquatic weeds. Too many aquatic weeds inhibit the growth and movement of desirable fish species within ponds, as well as the ability of the public to have a quality fishing experience. State Office Wildlife Management Biologist Geoff Walsh, who recently left BLM-ES for BLM's Washington Office, assisted in evaluating the need for grass eating carp as well as with the release of the fish.



Window of Opportunity Opens for Lathrop Bayou Prescribed Burn

Story and photos by Faye Winters, Wildlife Biologist, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

The BLM-ES, in partnership with St. Joe Company, Tyndall Air Force Base, and the U.S. Forest Service, conducted the second prescribed burn over the last 3 years on more than 500 acres at the Lathrop Bayou Habitat Management Area, located east of Panama City, Florida.

Re-establishing a more natural fire regime at Lathrop Bayou has been the cornerstone of the collaborative management plan written by Federal, State, and private partners in 2003. Frequent fires are a benefit to the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and several species of rare plants endemic to the once far-ranging longleaf pine forests of the southeastern United States. Lathrop Bayou and St. Joe's Wetappo Creek represent the most intact longleaf pine stands remaining in this region of Florida's Panhandle.

Prescribed burns at Lathrop Bayou were cancelled in 2005 due to overly wet conditions and again in 2006 due to drought. In 2007, while most of Florida was dealing with drought conditions, Lathrop's high water table provided a small window of opportunity in early March 2007 for a skilled burn team, pulled together from across the region, to conduct the prescribed burn. The Jackson Hotshot Crew and St. Joe Timberlands provided the core team, while the Tyndall Air Force Base generously provided the helicopter staging area, boat support, and skilled aerial ignition team for a BLM contracted helicopter, operated by an experienced U.S. Forest Service helicopter manager. The burn was ignited aerially from the helicopter in as tight a pattern as possible to keep the fire from gaining momentum. For added protection, the Jackson Hotshots and St. Joe's ground crews back-burned around the red-cockaded woodpecker trees ahead of the aerial ignition. The area around almost 30 woodpecker cavity trees had been previously hand-raked to clear a 20-foot buffer around each tree.

Although this was a hot "growing season" burn, it met the objectives for a prescribed burn, which included reducing shrubby vegetation, creating conditions favorable for longleaf regeneration, and continuing to stress encroaching slash pine. Each of the woodpecker cavity trees were checked early the following day, and with the extra care taken, all had survived the burn well.

Post-burn monitoring conducted in early May found that across the island, longleaf and slash pine alike



In March 2007, the second prescribed burn was successfully conducted at the Lathrop Bayou Habitat Management Area in Florida.

were recovering well from the stress of the burn and putting out new growth. Young longleaf, which are highly adapted to fire, were found springing back vigorously, and the burn seemed to take its toll on sapling slash pine in several areas. Resprouting wiregrass carpeted the island in new growth, and there was a spectacular display of spring wildflowers.

The Lathrop Bayou Habitat Management Area is jointly owned by BLM-ES, St. Joe Company, and the Genecov Group, and is managed through a five-party Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the landowners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The MOU stresses "cooperative stewardship strategies for the conservation and joint management of these sites and protected species." Prescribed fire is one of the tools used to achieve the management goals on the Lathrop Bayou Habitat Management Area.



In May, thousands of federally endangered Florida skullcap (*Scutellaria floridana*) and other rare plants bloomed across Lathrop Bayou.



Coal Leasing Potential at East Lynn Lake in West Virginia

By Martha Malik, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Milwaukee Field Office

East Lynn Lake is an impoundment created by the damming of the East Fork of Twelvepole Creek and is part of a Developed Recreation Area Project managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) in Wayne County, West Virginia. The project was purchased by the ACOE in the late 1960s/early 1970s for flood control and recreational purposes. BLM administers all coal mining under the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

In 2006, the BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office (MFO) began working with industry partners, Argus Energy LLC and Rockspring Development, Incorporated, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to fund a Land Use Analysis/Environmental Impact Statement (LUA/EIS) on approximately 13,000 acres on the East Lynn Lake Project Area. MOUs were also signed with the ACOE and the Office of Surface Mining (OSM). Currently, a MOU is underway with the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. The EIS will analyze the possible leasing and mining of Federal coal deposits at East Lynn Lake.

A kick-off meeting was held on November 7, 2006, with the BLM, Argus, Rockspring, OSM, ACOE, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, County Commissioner and Golder Associates

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



East Lynn Lake spillway on the north side of the reservoir in WV.

in preparation for launching the LUA/EIS. On November 6-7, 2006, public and agency scoping meetings were held to provide the opportunity for input regarding the EIS. Scoping closed December 1, 2006, with comments being received from agencies and the public. On March 27, 2007, a Socio-economic Workshop was held at the Wayne County Court House to hear concerns about coal leasing near East Lynn Lake. Monthly progress report meetings are being held to ensure timelines are being met.

A draft copy of the EIS will be available in 2008 and open for public review and comment for 90 days. The final EIS is scheduled for completion in spring 2009. For more information, visit the Web site at www.es.blm.gov/EastLynnLake/index.php or contact Chris Carusona, MFO Environmental and Planning Coordinator, at (414) 297-4463.

BLM-ES Partners with Alcorn State University in Mississippi

By Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

In early April, Lamar Liddell, Superintendent for the Jackson Hotshots, approached Alcorn State University, an historic college located in Vicksburg, Mississippi, about the possibility of offering Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM) qualification courses for the Federal Government's GS-401, General Natural Resources Management and Biological Sciences, job series.

Alcorn State University was very interested in participating in the courses and agreed to offer the required 24 hours of training in two, 4-week sessions during the summer. For the first time ever, nationwide, all 24 hours can be accomplished in 8 weeks at one location. These courses, from May 28-June 28, offered: Forestry, Soils, Forest Pathology, and PS 437 (Soil Conservation and Land

Use). The second series is scheduled for July 5-30, offering: General Horticulture, Forest Management, Experimental Design, and Plant Breeding.

This course certification is required by anyone who is in the GS-401 job series and especially targets those people interested in management or supervisory fire positions. The University is hoping to have at least 10 students enrolled in the courses offered and is planning to offer the courses again later in the year.

Alcorn State University was founded in 1871 as the Nation's first State-supported institution for higher education of African-Americans. The college enrolls approximately 3,100 students.



National Genealogical Society Conference Draws Large Crowds

By Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, BLM-Eastern States, External Affairs

From May 16-19, BLM-ES Branch Chief, General Land Office (GLO) Records Pat Tyler, Branch Chief, Lands & Realty Ida Doup, and Legal Assistant Frankie Morgan staffed a booth to exhibit the GLO Records Web site at the 2007 National Genealogical Society Conference and Family History Fair in Richmond, Virginia, where over 2,000 people were in attendance.

BLM-ES featured the GLO Records Web site at www.glorerecords.blm.gov which offers live access to over 3 million Federal land patent records, and now, survey plats—the newest addition of records to the Web site.

More than 200 copies of land patent records were provided to visitors who stopped by the booth to perform queries on their ancestors.



Photo by Ida Doup

(From left) BLM-ES Legal Assistant Frankie Morgan and GLO Records Branch Chief Pat Tyler assist astonished visitors to the GLO Web site booth during the conference in Virginia.

General Land Office

BLM-ES State Office Celebrates Black History Month

By Kemba K. Anderson, Land Law Examiner, BLM-Eastern States, Division of Natural Resources

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed." ~ Booker T. Washington, From "Up From Slavery"

This year's Black History Month theme, "From Slavery to Freedom, The Story of Africans in the Americas," honored the celebrated historian John Hope Franklin. Franklin wrote the book entitled, "From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans." His book describes the struggle of African-Americans for freedom and equality in American History. Mr. Franklin has been a leading figure for the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History and has the responsibility of creating the theme each year.

Employees enjoyed the month-long celebration by receiving articles about Black History through E-mail and viewing an informational display that was set up in the lunchroom. The changing display highlighted information on slavery, President Abraham Lincoln, the Emancipation Proclamation, African-American Inventors, and African-American Cowboys of the West.

The BLM-ES annual Black History Program was held on February 20, featuring guest speaker, Robert (Bob) W. Faithful IV, who is currently a Senior Policy Analyst for GovWorks with the Minerals Management Service in Herndon, Virginia. Mr. Faithful was the first African-American Deputy State Director in the BLM. In the late 1980s, he served as Associate State Director for BLM-ES. In 1991, he was named to the Senior Executive

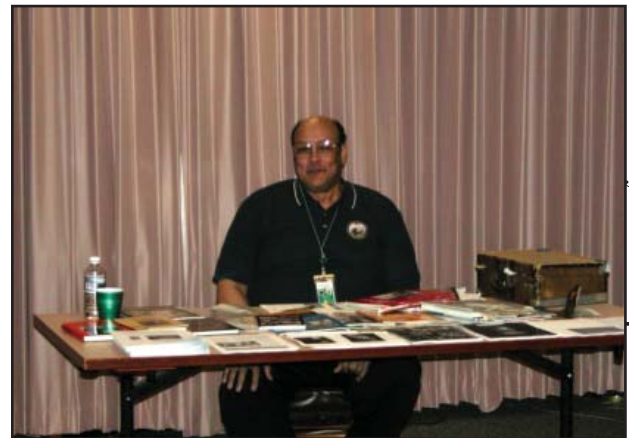


Photo by Bill Davenport

Guest speaker Bob Faithful talks to BLM-ES State Office employees about accomplishments in his Federal career during the Black History program.

Service with the BLM and served as the Assistant Director of Support Services, dealing with science, engineering, planning, hazmat, human resources, and Equal Employment Opportunity.

During the program, Mr. Faithful spoke about "gathering your suitcase" and "retracing your roots." He shared photos of his family and a pension card that was issued from the Department of the Interior for his grandfather. He also made available articles, books, and magazines which highlighted the Underground Railroad and the life of Frederick Douglass.

As always at BLM-ES, the program provided an opportunity to share good food, experiences, and interaction—all while learning about African-American History.



Students Learn About Surveying from BLM-ES' Experts

By Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, BLM-Eastern States

From May 7-11, BLM-ES Cadastral Surveyors, Jerry Wahl from Springfield, Virginia, and Corky Rodine, from Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, conducted an annual Surveying Retracement Seminar in Alabama. Their seminar was for the Alabama Society of Land Surveyors and for surveying students at Troy State University, which offers a 4-year Survey Degree program. U.S. Forest Service (USFS) partners also helped with on-site training.



(Center, left) BLM-ES Cadastral Surveyor Corky Rodine explains the various aspects of corner evidence to Troy State University students.

(Center, right) USFS Forester Bobby "Bobcat" Lee, from the Talladega National Forest, Oakmulgee Ranger District assists Corky during the training session.

BLM-ES Happenings

An open house was held at the BLM-ES State Office in Virginia on January 11, 2007 to demonstrate the National Integrated Land System (NILS), a joint project between the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service, the Geo-Communicator, and the LR2000 (Legacy Rehost 2000). Leslie Cone from the Denver Project Office was present for questions about these systems which will benefit BLM employees and the public.

Public Affairs Specialist Shayne Banks, from BLM-ES Jackson Field Office (JFO), staffed an information booth at the Dixie National Equine Expo, February 14-18, at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds. The Expo is the 3rd largest Quarter Horse Show in the United States, with over 10,000 people in attendance.

On March 31, BLM-ES Lower Potomac Field Station (LPFS) Outdoor Recreation Planner Jeff McCusker led a group of eight volunteers from southern Maryland on a Potomac Watershed Cleanup of the Blue Banks Beach, the Chiles Homesite, and the entire stretch of S.R. 2224, along the BLM boundary of the Douglas Point Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). Volunteer Tim Cox of Nanjemoy Inc. provided valuable assistance in moving the trash with his tractor and trailer. On the Virginia side, Joe Chudzick and BLM-ES Environmental Education Specialist Theresa Jefferson led a similar trash cleanup effort at Giles Run, with assistance from Friends of Meadowood.

From March 21-23, BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office (MFO) Petroleum Engineer Technician Jim Wood and State Office Land Law Examiner Kemba Anderson represented BLM-ES at the Ohio Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting and Trade Show held in Columbus, Ohio. BLM representatives staffed an exhibit and shared information with attendees from the oil and gas industry.

BLM-ES and Washington, D.C. Department of the Environment personnel conducted a 2-day, Meaningful Bay Experience, May 2-3, at Hard Bargain Farm in Maryland, where students from Bunker Hill Elementary School in Washington, D.C., canoed down the Potomac River and went seine net fishing. The students also participated in a watershed walk, milked a cow, and finished the evening with an "Urban Leave No Trace" activity and campfire.

On April 5, BLM-ES and U.S. Customs' employees donated 21 units of blood to help save lives through the Greater Chesapeake & Potomac Regional Red Cross Blood Drive.

BLM-ES MFO employees and volunteers participated in the Great American Cleanup event, held on April 21, in observance of Earth Day at Milwaukee's Urban Tree House site and throughout the Midtown Neighborhood. Individuals involved in the cleanup included District Alderman Robert Bauman and 47 volunteers who contributed 142 volunteer work hours for the effort. In Virginia, BLM-ES LPFS Environmental Education Specialist Theresa Jefferson staffed a booth on Earth Day at Mason Neck State Park, where nearly 4,000 people participated in the annual Elizabeth Hartwell "Eagle Festival." During the event, Congressman Tom Davis, Delegate Dave Albo, and Area Supervisor Gerry Hyland and Chairman Corey Stewart unveiled the sign officially renaming the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) for Elizabeth Hartwell, who helped to establish the NWR and State Park.

During BLM's most recent Wild Horse & Burro Internet Adoption, held May 9-23, 109 wild horses and 14 burros were offered for adoption. Forty-two horses and 6 burros were placed into good homes with varying pickup points in California, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, Nevada, and Utah.



Bill Fulcer Heads East for New Challenges

Story and photo by Martha Malik, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Milwaukee Field Office

In January 2007, Bill Fulcer packed his bags, leaving behind the wintry weather in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and headed for the BLM-ES State Office in Springfield, Virginia, to step into the busy shoes of the Budget Analyst position.

Before transferring to Virginia, Bill worked at the BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office as Associate Field Manager for Business Resources, Administrative Officer, and Computer Specialist. He previously worked as a Computer Specialist in Virginia. During a 22-year career in the U.S. Air Force, he worked in the Intelligence (Spy) and Meteorology fields at various locations around the world.

Bill was born in Appleton, Wisconsin. He graduated from the University of Nebraska in Omaha, with a B.A. degree in Administration.

Bill is married to Chris, and they are proud parents of 3 sons and grandparents of 8 grandchildren.

What inspired you to transfer from the BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office to the State Office in Springfield, Virginia? "I wanted to transfer to the BLM-ES State Office to enhance and develop my skills and to take advantage of career opportunities which exist in the Washington, D.C. area."



Bill Fulcer, Budget Analyst
BLM-Eastern States

How do you envision your future role with the BLM? "Next year, I look forward to transitioning into a management position at the State Office or expanding my budget and leadership skills with the possibility of working in BLM's Washington Office."

What are your hobbies? I enjoy officiating for high school football. I also enjoy watching sports on television and spending time with friends and family.

Photo Corner

Photo by Carmen Chapin



Through the efforts of the Midwest Natural Resources Group, Great Lakes-Terrestrial Invasive Species Council (GL-TISC) partnership, a traveling exhibit, "Great Lakes-Terrestrial Invasive Species," debuted April 16-20 during the George Wright Biannual Conference on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites, held in St. Paul, Minnesota. A small sub-committee of the GL-TISC, formed by BLM-ES' Milwaukee Field Office staff, developed the template for the display and worked with seven Federal agencies within the partnership to complete the display in time for the conference. More than 900 people were in attendance.



Photo by Shelby Beardon

On April 3, Jackson Field Office Public Affairs Specialist Shayne Banks represented BLM-ES by staffing a booth at an Environmental Education Day event in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. Over 350 5th grade students from Copiah County were provided the opportunity to learn about BLM's Environmental Education program, the Jackson Hotshots, and the Wild Horse & Burro program through interactive "hands-on" sessions during the day-long event.



E-mail Briefs

General Land Office.—"I just wanted to say thank you! I just found this site and it's great. Granted I didn't find anyone I needed, but it is well done, and easy to move around — great clarity!" *Julie*

Wild Horse & Burro.—"Thank you for your help in making Zippo the Wonder Burro's adoption over the Internet in March a reality. It was my first experience in doing an adoption by that method, and I was impressed how smoothly it went, from start to finish." Yours in Wild Horses. *Nancy Sieminski*

Eastern States Vision Statement—As Guardians of the Past, and Stewards for the Future, Eastern States is committed to sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands spanning the 31 states east of and bordering the Mississippi River for present and future generations.

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Eastern States — committed to sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands and resources in the 31 states east of and bordering on the Mississippi River for present and future generations.



Comings & Goings

New Employees.—*Arlene Lenoir*, Management Assistant, JFO; *Robert Evans*, Mail and File Clerk, *Benjamin "Frank" Martin*, Energy & Minerals Program Lead, and *John Reffit* and *Charles E. Wright*, Surveying Technicians, SO.

Transfers.—*Shawnda Cruz*, Human Resources Specialist to Department of Defense, *Aaron Horton*, Milwaukee Field Manager to BLM in Oregon, *Cynthia Rigney*, Human Resources Specialist to Department of Agriculture, *Steve Rothenberg*, Law Enforcement Ranger to Department of Homeland Security, *Dave Stout*, Acting Deputy State Director, Division of Land Resources to BLM in Colorado, and *Geoffrey Walsh*, Wildlife Management Biologist to BLM's Washington Office.

Retirees.—*Steve Gobat*, Deputy State Director, Division of Natural Resources, *Iris O'Neal*, Information Technology Specialist, and *Thelma Wright*, Land Law Examiner, SO.

Welcome — new members of the 2007 Jackson Hotshot Crew. Have a safe fire season.

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Dear Readers: Based on the survey results from our Summer 2006 newsletter, we have decided to report our news online beginning in October 2007 at www.es.blm.gov. Thank you for your continued interest in BLM-Eastern States.